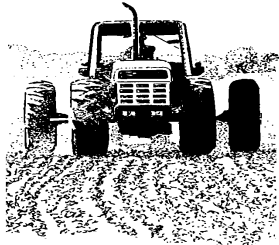


TENNESSEE WEEKLY  
WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn>

Released Weekly April - November

2005 Weather Crop 01

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Week Ending April 3, 2005

FARMERS “SPRING FORWARD” AS 2005 CROP SEASON GETS UNDERWAY

With the arrival of spring, farmers across the Volunteer State are busy preparing for the upcoming crop season. After last week’s wet weather, many Tennessee farmers are hoping for drier conditions to catch-up on their field activities. Precipitation averaged above normal across much of the state last week with the exception of West Tennessee, which averaged below normal, while temperatures averaged near normal. Corn planting progress was more than a week behind last year’s rapid pace, but only slightly behind normal. The State’s corn producers hope to begin planting in earnest this week if weather permits. Winter wheat was developing at a near normal pace and the crop was rated in mostly good-to-fair condition. Apples and peaches were generally unscathed by the winter weather with no major damage having been reported. Both cattle and pastures were rated in mostly good-to-fair condition. Other field activities last week included applying fertilizer and herbicides to pasture and hay fields and seed bed preparation. There were 3 days considered suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 66 percent adequate and 34 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 79 percent adequate, and 21 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through April 3, 2005					CONDITION: On April 1, 2005					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2004	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Winter Wheat - Jointed	45	N/A	49	46	Winter Wheat	3	7	28	51	11
Winter Wheat - Top Dressed	85	N/A	97	92	Apples	0	1	20	73	6
Corn - Planted	7	N/A	29	16	Alfalfa Hay	0	3	34	55	8
Apples - Budding or Beyond	67	N/A	73	70	Other Hay	0	3	28	61	8
Apples - Blooming or Beyond	26	N/A	41	32	Pastures	1	5	35	53	6
Peaches - Budding or Beyond	84	N/A	86	86	Cattle	1	5	28	58	8
Peaches - Blooming or Beyond	61	N/A	60	58						

**CORN:** Corn planting was off to a slow start as frequent rains have prevented many farmers from getting into their fields. Around 50,000 of the total 690,000 projected acres for 2005 had been planted as of the week ending Sunday.

**WHEAT:** Winter wheat jointing was slightly behind last year and the 5-year average. Farmers were still top dressing and applying herbicides in some areas. The crop was rated in mostly good condition.

**FRUIT:** The apple and peach crops came through the winter in mostly good condition with no major freeze damage reported. Apple development is currently trailing both last year and the 5-year average; however, nearly eighty percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition.

**PASTURES, HAY & CATTLE:** Pastures were rated in mostly good-to-fair condition, and farmers are busy applying herbicides, lime, and fertilizer. Cattle were rated in mostly good-to-fair condition with adequate to surplus hay stocks reported. Many cattle producers were selling calves to take advantage of favorable prices.

This is the first issue of the *Tennessee Weather & Crop Bulletin* for the 2005 crop season. The Bulletin is released weekly throughout the crop season ending around early November. It is based on reports received from Extension Agents with the University of Tennessee Extension and local cooperators. It can be accessed each Monday afternoon shortly after 3:00 CDT at our website <http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn>.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION For week ending: April 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2005 (with comparisons)										
LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending April 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2005				Current Week	Rain	Current Since	Departure From	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	04/04/05	Days	January 1	Normal	Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	78	35	55	-4	2.21	5	14.17	-0.16	2	-4
Tri-City_RGNL_A	77	38	53	+3	1.97	4	9.70	-1.00	0	+0
Brownsville_TN	77	36	55	-2	2.54	4	12.27	-2.04	1	-2
Chattanooga/Lov	80	38	57	+3	2.43	5	13.31	-2.92	5	+2
Clarksville_Sew	76	36	56	+3	1.80	3	11.27	-2.88	0	-3
Cookeville	80	31	52	+0	2.24	5	14.65	-0.88	0	+0
Covington	77	39	55	+0	2.47	3	12.75	-1.47	1	-3
Crossville_AP	74	35	53	+2	3.16	5	14.76	-0.78	0	+0
Dickson_AG	76	30	54	-1	1.58	4	13.01	-1.51	0	-3
Dover_1W	76	37	53	-1	1.97	5	11.93	-2.48	4	+1
Dyersburg	77	37	56	-2	2.19	3	12.56	-0.74	2	-4
Erwin_1W	78	38	52	+3	2.27	4	12.30	+0.37	0	-3
Huntingdon_Wate	76	34	54	+0	1.87	5	10.81	-3.43	3	+0
Jackson_Exp_Stn	78	35	55	+0	3.00	3	13.33	-0.43	4	+1
Kingston_AG	79	36	53	+2	3.52	4	16.32	-0.26	1	+1
Knoxville_AP	80	37	57	+4	3.11	7	11.01	-2.73	2	+1
Lewisburg	75	34	52	-1	3.72	5	13.15	-1.93	0	-3
Lexington_TN	75	35	53	-2	2.23	4	13.16	-0.51	2	+2
Linden	78	33	54	+2	1.57	4	12.62	-2.88	0	-3
Martin	75	36	54	+1	2.48	3	11.19	-2.56	2	-1
Mc_Minnville_Tn	80	34	56	+2	2.27	6	10.90	-4.02	0	-4
Memphis_AG	80	39	56	-2	1.75	4	12.95	-1.08	3	-5
Milan	77	32	54	+0	2.09	3	10.84	-3.28	0	-3
Murfreesboro_5N	78	35	53	-1	1.91	6	13.38	-0.88	1	-6
Nashville_Metro	77	34	54	-2	3.49	5	13.51	+0.82	3	+0
Newcomb	79	36	53	+4	3.60	5	13.23	-1.11	0	+0
Oneida	79	35	52	+3	3.44	5	13.79	-0.55	0	-3
Pikeville	78	34	56	+2	2.42	4	11.50	-4.11	0	-3
Portland_TN	76	37	52	+0	2.54	4	13.86	+0.09	1	+1
Pulaski_Water_P	78	34	54	-4	2.18	5	13.13	-2.78	1	-4
Savannah_6SW	77	35	55	-4	1.71	4	14.48	-1.52	2	-1
Sparta_TN	80	31	56	+3	2.53	4	15.24	+0.19	0	+0
Springfield	77	35	51	-2	2.48	5	13.23	-0.09	0	-1
Springhill	78	33	52	+0	2.44	5	15.42	+0.28	1	-2
Union_City	74	36	54	+1	3.37	3	14.72	+1.05	0	-3

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).    GDD = Growing Degree Days.  
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.    Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
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 National Weather Service, and the University of Tennessee’s Extension Service.